GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4297
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
TERMINATION OF WORKING VISA PERMIT BY MALAYSIA
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia has decided to terminate the work contract visa of overseas Indian workers by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to absorb this influx of overseas workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): As per the information received from HCI, Kuala Lumpur, their Minister of Home Affairs, has clarified that the Government of Malaysia has not frozen the recruitment of workers from India. He also mentioned that there is no move to limit the intake of workers from India though Malaysia was trying to reduce the number of foreign workers. However, Government of Malaysia would not approve work permit for any foreign worker who has worked in the country for five years or more. Further, Malaysian Government has not specified, any number that may be sent back by the end of 2010.

(c) & (d): The Mission renders the necessary assistance for the return of such workers. As a policy, the Government of India discourages illegal migration and has taken several steps to curb the same. These include a national awareness campaign through electronic and print media to educate potential migrants about the risks of illegal migration. The regulatory mechanism is being made transparent to address the problem. The Ministry is also examining a proposal to establish an Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund which inter-alia will seek to provide on site, off site and return and resettlement services.